

May 22, 2000

Lynda Harrison
3308 Harle Street
Pearl, MS 39208

Dear Ms. Harrison:

Our Legislature is trying to find a solution to problems that exist in our prison system. We need to keep violent criminals behind bars. When a judge sentences someone to prison, that sentence should mean something. We owe that to law-abiding citizens and victims of crime in Mississippi.

We must focus on giving non-violent inmates trades that will make them productive members of our community and make sure time served is time well spent. We need to create a separate youth court that keeps juvenile offenders away from the influence of hardened criminals. We must give teenagers in trouble a way to get back on track.

A good education is the best way to prevent crime. We need to teach young Mississippians how to make a difference in the classrooms, rather than lock them up where they will only learn to be better criminals. After all, it costs almost \$4000 a year to educate a child, but more than \$19,000 to incarcerate a criminal.

I plan to work closely with our Legislature during my next four years as Governor to make Mississippi an even better place to live, work and visit.

If I can be of further help, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/bwl